blacknewsdigest

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IN THIS ISSUE:

PROMISING ECONOMIC SITUATION
FOR BLACK FAMILIES PREDICTED

WHITFIELD ANNOUNCES $1 MILLION
FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS IN 3 STATES

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Week of December 7, 1987

PROMISING ECONOMIC SITUATION
FOR BLACK FAMILIES PREDICTED

WASHINGTON -- A "promising economic situation" for black families was predicted by the director of the Labor Department's Women's Bureau in an address here.

Shirley Dennis, who is black, addressed the national convention of the National Council of Negro Women and said:

"The promise is given meaning by the economy's five-year recordbreaking expansion, generating millions of jobs."

At the beginning of 1987, Dennis said, more than eight out of every 10 black families had at least one member in the labor force, and in six out of 10 of these families, at least one member worked full time.

In general, Dennis added, earnings have increased for blacks regardless of family status.

Between 1983 and 1987, she said, the increase has been more than 16 percent for all blacks.

For married-couple black families, the increase has been more than 24 percent.

And for families maintained by women, earnings have gone up over 25 percent in the four-year period, Dennis said.

"No matter how you interpret that," Dennis declared, "That's good news."

She added:

"As black leaders, we do a great disservice to our young people by sending them a message of desperation, defeat and despair...The time is ripe for a new message."

She urged her audience to carry a message of hope to today's black youth.

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Week of December 7, 1987

WHITFIELD ANNOUNCES $1 MILLION
FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS IN 3 STATES

WASHINGTON -- Dislocated workers including blacks and other minority group members who have been displaced by plant closings, mass layoffs and farm failures in Illinois, Louisiana and Montana will be helped by $1,432,300 in grants announced by Deputy Secretary of Labor Dennis E. Whitfield.

Whitfield said: "The Job Training Partnership Act has given us the opportunity to aid American workers when their jobs are lost. The funds provide support services that are geared to helping the dislocated worker return to work in as quick a period of time as possible".

The funds are authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and will provide dislocated workers with retraining and other supportive services to re-enter the work force.

The Sangamon County Land of Lincoln Consortium in Springfield, Illinois will receive $125,000 to assist up to 109 plant workers dislocated as a result of the closing of the Oscar Mayer Food Corporation plant in Beardstown. The area affected includes Cass, Schuyler, Morgan, Brown and Pike counties. Workers will receive job search assistance, assessment, classroom training, counseling, support services and on-the-job training.

The Illinois Farmers Union-Training, Inc. will receive $350,000 to assist up to 270 coal miners dislocated as a result of mine closings. The area affected includes Williamson, Franklin, Perry, Jefferson, Jackson, Hamilton and Saline counties. Workers will receive career assessment, counseling, job search assistance, classroom training and on-the-job training. Supportive services will include needs-based payments to workers when necessary to ensure their participation in training as well as child care and transportation reimbursements.

The Illinois Valley Community College will receive $250,000 to assist up to 160 glass manufacturing and fertilizer production workers dislocated as a result of mass layoffs at Libbey-Owens-Ford in Naplate and the closure of the Mobil Mining and Minerals plant in DePue. Workers will receive career assessment, counseling, job search assistance, employment skill development, classroom vocational skill training and on-the-job training at the local dislocated worker center. Supportive services available to participants will include mileage and child care reimbursement, and relocation assistance.

The Coordinating and Development Corporation in Shreveport, Louisiana will receive $507,300 to assist up to 150 workers dislocated as a result of the AT&T plant closure and layoffs at the following companies: Riley-Beaird, General Electric, Libbey Glass, Kast Metals Corporation, Fabsteel Corporation, Garan Corporation and Cadillac Wire and Cable. The area affected includes the City of Shreveport and Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Clairborne, DeSoto, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Webster counties. Workers will receive on-the-job training, primarily. Counseling, job development, and placement assistance will also be available.

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The Montana Farmers Union will receive $200,000 to assist up to 155 dislocated farmers and ranchers. The area with a concentration of potential participants includes the Golden Triangle area extending across the Highline, Eastern Montana, the Billings-Hardin-Columbus area, the Dillon area and Western Montana. Workers will receive assessment, counseling, remedial education, on-the-job and classroom vocational skill training.

The dislocated worker program aids workers who have been, or are about to be, laid off due to technological change, foreign competition or the permanent closing of a plant or facility. Training is also provided for workers who are unlikely to return to their previous industry or occupation, with little prospect for local employment or reemployment.

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Week of December 7, 1987

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The U.S. Department of Labor's Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration recovered more than $100 million through voluntary settlements and court actions and conducted 47 criminal investigations under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act during the 1986 fiscal year.

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The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor Management Standards closed 498 embezzlement cases involving all types and sizes of unions during the 1986 fiscal year, according to the Labor Department's annual report.

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The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor Management Standards received 161 complaints of alleged union election violations during the 1986 fiscal year, according to the Labor Department's annual report.

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The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Management Relations and Cooperative Programs conducted or cosponsored 52 conferences and symposia in which labor and management representatives learned about the potential of cooperative activities to increase productivity, efficiency and quality during the 1986 fiscal year.

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